

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Elliott

Serial No.: Not yet assigned; based on PCT/GB00/04387

Filed: Herewith (12/19/01)

For: Nut and Seat Assembly for Clamp

Preliminary Amendment

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicants respectfully request that upon the issuance of a serial number and filing date, the application filed herewith be amended as follows.

After the title, please add the following:

“This application is a continuation of International Application PCT/GB00/04376 filed on November 17, 2000, which International Application was published by the International Bureau in English on May 25, 2001 and which International Application is based on GB application no. 9927226.2 filed on November 17, 1999.”

Please cancel claims 1-19 and add the new claims 20-45 attached as a clean version.

Please charge any fee due to Deposit Account No. 08-2442.

Respectfully submitted,
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CLEAN VERSION OF THE NEWLY ADDED CLAIMS

20. A pipe clamp comprising at least first and second parts having a pivotal connection to allow the said at least first and second parts to be opened for receiving a pipe, and a nut and bolt which can be tightened to secure the clamp on the pipe, one of said parts having ends and having a bifurcation at one end through which the bolt passes, wherein said end mates directly with the nut when it is tightened on the bolt so as to limit opening of the bifurcation.

21. The clamp of Claim 20, wherein a concave recess cooperates with a convex portion or portions dimensioned so that tightening the bolt urges the bifurcation together.

22. The clamp of Claim 21, wherein the concave recess is provided on an inside surface of the nut and the convex portion or portions is or are provided on the end of the part through which the bolt passes.

23. A clamp, for clamping pipework, comprising:-

- a first clamp member;
- a second clamp member;
- a bolt; and
- a nut

such that when the first clamp member is attached to the second clamp member and the bolt is attached to the first clamp member the nut can be tightened onto the bolt so as to clamp pipework between the first and second clamp members,

wherein the second clamp member comprises an aperture defined by prongs and into which the bolt can be moved laterally, the nut mates directly with a seat on the second clamp member and tightening of the nut onto the second clamp member prevents splaying of the prongs.

24. The clamp of Claim 23, wherein tightening of the nut onto the second clamp member exerts an inward force on the prongs, towards the bolt.

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25. The clamp of Claim 23, wherein the second clamp member comprises an open-sided, U-shaped aperture defined by prongs and in use the bolt can be moved laterally in and out of the aperture and the nut is tightened axially onto the bolt.

26. The clamp of Claim 23, wherein the first and second clamp members are pivotally connected at respective first ends.

27. The clamp of Claim 23, wherein the bolt is separate from the first clamp member and comprises a retention means and the first clamp member comprises an aperture through which the bolt passes such that when the bolt has been passed through the aperture removal of the bolt from the first clamp member is resisted by the retention means.

28. The clamp of Claim 27, wherein the retention means comprises a resilient, angled projection so the bolt can easily be inserted into the aperture but is more difficult to remove once inserted.

29. The clamp of Claim 23, wherein the bolt comprises a T-shaped end portion to engage against the first clamp member in use and to act as a pivot for pivotal movement of the bolt relative to the first clamp member.

30. The clamp of Claim 23, wherein at the end that receives the nut the bolt comprises a non-threaded portion to facilitate location of the nut onto the bolt.

31. The clamp of Claim 23, wherein the first and second clamp members are separate but pivotally engaged to each other and wherein one of the first and second members comprises a resilient retention means and the other comprises a surface against which acts the retention means, and wherein it is easy to snap the first and second members into pivotal engagement but more difficult to disengage the first and second clamp members thereafter.

32. The clamp of Claim 23 made of plastics material.

33. The clamp of Claim 32 wherein the plastics material is glass-filled nylon.
34. The clamp of Claim 23, wherein further projections extend from the prongs and prevent overclosing of the clamp.
35. A nut and seat assembly for a clamp, comprising
- (i) a nut to be tightened onto a bolt; and
 - (ii) a clamp member having a seat for the nut and an aperture defined by prongs so the bolt can be inserted laterally into the aperture and the nut can be tightened axially against the seat;
- wherein the nut and seat mate directly and tightening of the nut onto the seat prevents outward movement of the prongs away from the bolt.
36. The assembly of Claim 35, wherein tightening of the nut onto the seat pushes the prongs of the clamp member together and can tighten the prongs around the bolt.
37. The assembly of Claim 35, wherein the nut comprises a mating surface at or towards a lower edge of the nut which co-operates with a corresponding mating surface on the seat so that as the nut is tightened onto the bolt action of the surfaces on each other prevents outward movement of the prongs and/or pushes the prongs together and tightens them around the bolt.
38. The assembly of Claim 35, wherein prongs of the clamp member form a U-shaped aperture such that in use a bolt can be inserted laterally into the open end of the aperture and the seat is formed from the sides of the prongs.
39. The assembly of Claim 35 made of plastics material.
40. The assembly of Claim 39 wherein the plastics material is glass-filled nylon.
41. The assembly of Claim 35, wherein further projections extend from the prongs and prevent overclosing of the clamp.

42. A clamp, having an upper member and a lower member, to go around a pipe, a nut and a bolt,

wherein the bolt is separate from the lower clamp member and comprises a retention means and the lower clamp member comprises an aperture through which the bolt passes such that when the bolt has been passed through the aperture removal of the bolt from the lower clamp member is resisted by the retention means, and

wherein the first and second clamp members are separate but pivotally engaged to each other and wherein one of the first and second members comprises a resilient retention means and the other comprises a surface against which acts the retention means, and wherein it is easy to snap the first and second members into pivotal engagement but more difficult to disengage the first and second clamp members thereafter.

43. A pipe clamp made of plastics material, comprising a first part and a second part, each having first and second ends, wherein the first ends of each of said first and second parts are pivotally connected to allow the first and second parts to be opened for receiving a pipe, and a nut and bolt which can be tightened to secure the clamp on the pipe, the second end of one of said first and second parts having a bifurcation through which the bolt passes, wherein the second end having the bifurcation engages with the nut when it is tightened on the bolt so as to limit opening of the bifurcation, and wherein further projections extend from the second end of one of said first and second parts and prevent overclosing of the clamp.

44. A nut and seat assembly for a clamp made of plastics material, comprising

(i) a nut to be tightened onto a bolt; and

(ii) a clamp member having a seat for the nut and an aperture defined by prongs so the bolt can be inserted laterally into the aperture and the nut can be tightened axially against the seat;

wherein tightening of the nut onto the seat prevents outward movement of the prongs away from the bolt.

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- wherein the second clamp member comprises an aperture defined by prongs and into which the bolt can be moved laterally, and tightening of the nut onto the second clamp member prevents splaying of the prongs.